REMARKS

Amendments

New claims 26-37 are directed to the elected species, i.e, lanthanum carbonate compounds. See, e.g., page 12, line3 28-35 and Example 1 beginning at page 17.

Election

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants hereby select lanthanum carbonates as the elected species. It is Applicants' understanding that, following this election, examination will proceed in accordance with MPEP §809.02(c). In particular, it is Applicants understanding upon determination that the elected species is allowable, the examination will be extended to other species and further, upon determination that a generic claim is allowable, the Applicants will be advised that the claims drawn to the non-elected species are no longer withdrawn. See, MPEP §809.02(c)(B)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

Brion P. Heaney Reg. No. 32,542 Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400 2200 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, Virginia 22201

Telephone: (703) 243-6333 Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: PHARMA-131

Date: November 4, 2002